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A Magazine's Scoop Leads to Spy Charges

Last August, when Jane's Defence Weekly published three aerial photos of the Soviet Union's first big-deck aircraft carrier under construction, it was an impressive scoop for the new magazine published by the British chronicler of warships, airplanes and weapons systems. But the photos alarmed Pentagon officials—notably Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger—who thought the pictures revealed too much about U.S. satellite photography capabilities. Last week the FBI arrested Samuel Loring Morison, a civilian intelligence analyst and grandson of the late naval historian Samuel Eliot Morison. The charge was espionage—for selling the photos to Jane's.

Morison, it turned out, was working both for the Navy and for Jane's—and he left investigators a wide trail. His Navy supervisor recognized the photos. FBI agents found his fingerprints on the originals retrieved from Jane's. And by analyzing the ribbon in Morison's typewriter, investigators re-created his letters to Jane's editors warning them that his office phone might be bugged and asking for a full-time job. A spokesman for Jane's said the photos were unsolicited and confirmed only that Morison was a contributor to Jane's Fighting Ships. Arrested near Washington and held in lieu of \$500,000 bond, Morison denied that he had sent the photos to the Defence Weekly.